

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1238

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USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SGEN, PFOR, EGEN, TH

SUBJECT: NEWS REPORT: JACK NICKLAUS COMMENT ON THAILAND

1. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NEGATIVE IMPACT OF JACK NICKLAUS COMMENT, AS REPORTED BY AP, THAT HE DECLINED TO PLAY FOR WORLD CUP IN BANGKOK BECAUSE "HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE." WE EXPECT WIDESPREAD PLAY OF THE STORY AND STRONG CRITICISM OF IT HERE BECAUSE SUCH A COMMENT OBVIOUSLY CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT FOREIGN ATTITUDES TOWARD TRADE AND INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY TOURISM, ONE OF THAILAND'S MAJOR INCOME EARNERS.

2. AP REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS "SAID THEY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH WORLD CUP OFFICIALS FOR THE PAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS AND HAVE PERSISTENTLY TOLD THEM THEY KNOW OF NO REASON ANYBODY SHOULDN'T GO TO BANGKOK." REQUEST ASAP FULL TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REITERATE THAT U.S. KNOWS NO CAUSE FOR THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY NICKLAUS.

MASTERS

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